



June 30, 2015

San Luis Obispo Planning Commission

County Government Center

San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Executive Committee of Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo, are writing you regarding the Phillips 66 Railroad Spur project. Two of our Foundation's primary missions are to protect the coastal environment as well as ocean water quality. We find that the Phillips 66 Project is a significant threat to both of these.

First, and of acute local concern, is the daily transport through San Luis Obispo county (and specifically Price Canyon, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano) of mile long trains filled with thousands of barrels of tar sand oil and volatile diluents. It is a well-known fact that our country's rail system is suffering from decades of poor maintenance and lack of investment. Should there be a derailment and spill of this toxic liquid, local beaches and ocean would certainly be negatively impacted. Daily trains over a period of the next twenty years create an unacceptable and unnecessary risk to our coastal environment.

Second, as a planet we are now in the midst of anthropogenic climate change and global warming caused by our burning of fossil fuels. In turn, ocean water levels are rising which threatens coastal environments and ocean water is becoming acidified which threatens coral reefs and phytoplankton, the base of the food chain. The extraction, transportation, refinement, and burning of tar sand oils increases CO2 levels in the atmosphere and exacerbates climate change and global warming. We do not want our county to participate in this process of destruction but rather to champion clean and renewable energy sources.

Third, we have little faith in the integrity of the refinery operations given its horrendous history as a major player in the largest oil spill in United States history in the Guadalupe dunes. For decades the refinery operators covered up and lied about diluent loss until millions of gallons lay underground, polluting the beaches, ocean, and groundwater. It was surfers and fishermen who called attention to the oil fouled beach and waters in the 1970's.

For these reasons, we encourage you to deny this proposal for the well-being of our coast, our citizens, our earth.

For the Executive Committee of Surfrider SLO,

Niel Dilworth and Brad Snook, Co-Chairs

Leslie Jones, Chapter Secretary

Pat Patten, Treasurer